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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,553	08/09/2001	Michael G. Dykhoff	56950US002	5531

7590

12/01/2003

Attention: David B. Patchett
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, MN 55133-3427

EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CL015

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,553

Applicant(s)

DYKHOFF, MICHAEL G.

Examiner

Jane J Rhee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Newly submitted claims 42-43 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The newly submitted claims 42-43 are directed to method claims in class 52/741.1.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 42-43 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 31,34-36,38-41,44-45,47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated over Wilson.

Wilson discloses a fire barrier assembly comprising a plurality of fire stop articles arranged in an opening (figure 8 number 72 and 74), the fire stop article comprising an interior insulating material (figure 6 number 28) and an intumescent material (figure 6 number 29) arranged around at least a portion of the interior material (figure 6 number

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29 and 28), the intumescent material consisting essentially of filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component (col. 6 lines 45-50). Wilson discloses that the intumescent material further includes organic char-forming components (col. 6 line 49). Wilson discloses that the interior insulating material comprises inorganic fibrous material (col. 8 line 24). Wilson discloses that the inorganic fibrous material comprises at least one of fiberglass, mineral wool, refractory ceramic materials, and mixtures thereof (col. 3 lines 31-35). Wilson discloses that the interior insulating material has opposed first and second opposed major surfaces, and further wherein the sheets of intumescent material are arranged adjacent each of the first and second surfaces (figure 6 number 29 and 28). Wilson discloses that the intumescent sheets is adhesively bonded with the insulating material first and second major surfaces (col. 4 lines 1-3). Wilson discloses that the fire stop articles are held in place in the opening by compression (col. 9 line 35). Wilson discloses that the partition has a concrete substrate for adhesion and the fire barrier installation passes a hose stream test in accordance with ASTM Test E814 (col. 14 lines 4-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 37,46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Eiermann (4584214).

Wilson discloses that the inorganic fibrous material comprises 50% mineral wool (col. 7 lines 15-16). Wilson fails to disclose that the mineral wool has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot. Wilson fails to disclose that the opening has an area of greater than 300 square inches. Eiermann discloses that the mineral wool has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot (col. 4 lines 55-57) for the purpose of preventing heat penetration for a sufficiently long time (col. 4 lines 66-68).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Wilson with mineral wool that has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot in order to prevent heat penetration for a sufficiently long time (col. 4 lines 66-68) as taught by Eiermann.

Wilson teaches an opening in a partition for inserting fire stops (figure 8 number 72), therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the opening an area greater than 300 square inches, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

4. Claims 32,33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Sakno (5634304).

Wilson discloses the fire barrier assembly described above. Wilson fails to disclose that the fire stop article further comprises an enclosure arranged around the intumescent material. Sakno teaches an enclosure arranged around the intumescent material for the purpose of containing the expansion of the intumescent material and

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focus its expansion on collapsing the conduit without reliance upon containment by surrounding concrete (col. 3 lines 1-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Wilson with an enclosure arranged around the intumescent material in order to contain the expansion of the intumescent material and focus its expansion on collapsing the conduit without reliance upon containment by surrounding concrete (col. 3 lines 1-4) as taught by Sakno.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 31-47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

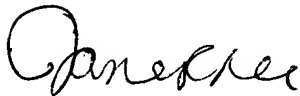
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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane J Rhee whose telephone number is 703-605-4959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Jane Rhee
November 20, 2003


NASSER AHMAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER